

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EAIR, CY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REOPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT
REF: A) NICOSIA 1494 B) NICOSIA 1448 C) NICOSIA 1325

1. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT REOPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT
WOULD BE A HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND IMPORTANT STEP WHICH WOULD
HAVE PRACTICAL BENEFITS AND IDEALLY DEMONSTRATE THE FEASI-
BILITY OF DAY-TO-DAY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES.
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FAVORABLE COMMENT BY BOTH SIDES ON A PLAN FOR UN OPERATION
AND USE OF THE AIRPORT (PARA 4, REF C) IS THEREFORE WELCOME
AS WAS POSITIVE ATTITUDE THAT DENKTASH ASSUMED DURING
MEETING WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ ON MAY 19 (PARA 9, STATE
132423) PARTICULARLY HIS READINESS TO ABANDON REQUIREMENT
THAT THERE BE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT
TECHNICAL PERSONNEL.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RE-OPENING AND OPERATION OF NICOSIA AIRPORT SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE UN AND THE TWO CYPRIOT PARTIES WITHOUT DIRECT US INVOLVEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTIES TO WORK SERIOUSLY TOWARDS A PRACTICAL RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS, TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE UN, AND TO UTILIZE OUR GOOD OFFICES IF CALLED UPON. TO THIS END WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF GALINDO-POHL WERE TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH DENKTASH UPON HIS RETURN

TO CYPRUS AND SEEK FROM HIM THE FORMAL RESPONSE CURRENTLY AWAITED FROM THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE. GALINDO-POHL WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO FORMALIZE HIS PROPOSAL TO THE GOC ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THE ADDITIONAL COMPLICATIONS IN THIS PERIOD PRIOR CONGRESSIONAL EMBARGO VOTE.

3. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SUBSTANTIALLY MORE COULD BE GAINED IN TERMS OF STIMULATING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND REKNITTING THE TWO COMMUNITIES TOGETHER IF THE AIRPORT WERE TO BE REOPENED FOR GENERAL CIVILIAN TRAFFIC RATHER THAN SIMPLY UN USE. DENKTASH CLEARLY SEEMS TO FAVOR THIS, ON THE CONDITION THAT EACH SIDE WOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS AND PRESUMABLY ITS OWN ENTRY FORMALITIES. THE GOC, NO DOUBT, WOULD SEE A NUMBER OF STATUS PROBLEMS FLOWING FROM SUCH A GENERAL REOPENING, BUT WE DO NOT PERCEIVE THEM AS BEING TOTALLY OPPOSED. VANCE
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